

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJ: ROY MEDVEDEV'S LATEST BOOK EXPOSES SOVIET WRITER

M.A. SHOLOKHOV

1. CENTRAL PRESS REPORTED FIRST SESSION OF ALL-UNION JUBILEE COMMITTEE HELD DECEMBER 20 WITH N.S. TIKHONOV CHAIRING. COMMITTEE PLANNING CELEBRATION OF 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF M.A. SHOLOKHOV'S BIRTHDAY (BORN MAY 25, 1905) AT BOLSHOY THEATER. ALL-UNION SCHOLARLY-THEORETICAL CONFERENCE WILL ALSO BE HELD ON SHOLOKOV'S WORKS.

2. IZVESTIYA EVENING EDITION ON DECEMBER 14 OPENED SERIES OF ARTICLES ON THE YOUTHFUL SHOLOKHOV BY THE WRITER A. KALININ. IN ADDITION TO KICKING OFF SOVIET PRESS CELEBRATION OF SHOLOKHOV'S BIRTHDAY, THE IZVESTIYA SERIES PROBABLY ALSO SHOULD BE READ AS A REFUTATION OF THE CHARGES RECENTLY MADE BY SOLZHENITSYN THAT SHOLOKHOV IS NOT THE REAL AUTHOR OF THE LITERARY MASTERPIECE "THE QUIET DON."

3. ANOTHER UNPLEASANT SURPRISE FOR SHOLOKHOV AND THE SOVIET LITERARY ESTABLISHMENT IS DUE IN JANUARY WHEN ROY MEDVEDEV WILL RELEASE HIS LATEST BOOK (ZAGADKI TVORCHESKOY BIOGRAFII MIKHAILA SHOLOKHOVA
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(PUZZLES IN THE CREATIVE BIOGRAPHY OF MIKHAIL

SHOLOKHOV). MEDVEDEV HAS WRITTEN 109 PAGES OF CAREFUL ANALYSIS OF SHOLOKHOV'S BOOK AND HAS COME TO THE SAME CONCLUSION AS SOLZHENITSYN. MANUSCRIPT NOW IN POSSESSION OF WESTERN NEWSMEN IN MOSCOW WHO ARE SITTING TIGHT AND WAITING FOR MEDVEDEV TO ACT. MEDVEDEV HAS ALSO COMPARED SHOLOKHOV'S OTHER WORKS AGAINST "THE QUIET DON" AND CONCLUDED THAT SHOLOKHOV WAS NEVER ABLE TO COME CLOSE THE LITERARY LEVEL OF THE FAMOUS NOVEL.

4. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH MEDVEDEV DISAGREES WITH SOLZHENITSYN ON SOME KEY ISSUES, IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT BOTH HE AND SOLZHENITSYN AGREE ON THE FALSENESS OF SHOLOKHOV'S CLAIM TO AUTHORSHIP OF "THE QUIET DON." SOLZHENITSYN HAS, OF COURSE, THE BROADER PURPOSE OF NOT SIMPLY EXPOSING SHOLOKHOV, A FULL MEMBER OF THE CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND ONE OF THE SHINING LITERARY MONUMENTS OF THE SOVIET UNION, BUT OF SYSTEMATICALLY DESTROYING THE CLAIMS TO MORAL AUTHORITY AND LEGITIMACY OF THE CPSU. MEDVEDEV HAS NOW JOINED HIM ON THE LITERARY ISSUE ALTHOUGH HE CERTAINLY DOES NOT ACCEPT SOLZHENITSYN'S LARGER PURPOSE.
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